



**Michigan Osteopathic
Association**



House Education Committee public hearing on HB 4087

June 19, 2007

Dear Chairman Melton and Committee Members:

The osteopathic medical profession is built on a philosophy of prevention. That's why the Michigan Osteopathic Association (MOA) supports House Bill 4087 to create safe and smoke-free housing environments for Michigan students.

Numerous studies conclude that the social atmosphere at colleges and universities provides a base for young people to begin smoking. This social smoking extends to the residence halls. There is no doubt that the dangers of tobacco inhalation are serious to both the smoker and to the bystander who breathes it secondhand.

The Michigan Osteopathic Association believes that each person has the right to choose whether to smoke or not to smoke. However, we also believe that it is a state obligation to protect the health and safety of its citizens, so any step that can be taken to prevent the exposure to and potential for addiction to cigarette smoking is an obligation of state government. College dormitories provide a home away-from-home for all who reside in them, including the non-smoking student. If they can't expect smoke free air where they live, where can they go?

The MOA believes that it is a positive step to have many colleges and universities voluntarily adopting smoke-free policies but these steps still fall short of what is necessary. We believe that a state law is needed to achieve the result that internal policy is unable to accomplish. For that reason, the Michigan Osteopathic Association, on behalf of its nearly 5,000 member physicians and medical students, urges your support for HB 4087.

Sincerely,

Susan Sevensma, D.O.
President

Cc: Michigan House Commerce Committee Members
SS/db

